



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

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12 awards recognize business and industry partnerships with education

MADISON—Twelve business and industry partnerships that support student academic achievement received recognition Thursday during the 73rd annual Wisconsin Association for Career and Technical Education Conference in Appleton.

In naming her 2009 Business Friends of Education, State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster noted that creative business and education partnerships improve students' educational experiences, while strengthening Career and Technical Education programs in the schools. "Now more than ever we need to develop PK-16, business, and community partnerships that support and have a shared responsibility for education and workforce development. These awards recognize true champions from the business community for their strong involvement, honored commitment, and clear vision toward growing Wisconsin and the ideals of the New Wisconsin Promise," she said.

Awards were given to recognize the value of business and industry partnerships in helping students gain 21st century skills. Sharon Wendt, director of Career and Technical Education in the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, presented the awards on Burmaster's behalf.

Briggs and Stratton Power Products Group was honored for providing an on-site manufacturing youth apprenticeship program for at-risk students in Jefferson. The program helps the state's economy and provides high quality, trained employees for the manufacturing industry. **Doug Beth** and **Denis Oswald** accepted the award.

Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee, which partners with Ethan Allen School in Wales, was recognized for introducing students to career and postsecondary options and providing mentors for building and maintaining employability skills. **Charles Brown** and **Clarence Montgomery** accepted the award.

Capital Credit Union in Kimberly was recognized for developing personal finance classes that reinforce the importance of managing money wisely. The credit union also provides financial literacy opportunities during Money Smart Week. President and CEO **Alan Zierler** and **Cindi Witt** accepted the award for Capital Credit Union.

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EVCO Plastics and company president **Dale Evans** were honored for opening the company's technology training facility and state-of-the-art custom injection molding machines to De Forest Area High School students. Additionally, Evans was recognized for his instrumental role in jumpstarting the Plastics Manufacturing Youth Apprenticeship program and his research and development work with University of Wisconsin programs in Madison and Stout.

M&I Corporation of Wausau, through the efforts of **Terri Markstrum** and the staff, have provided opportunities for 265 students to consider careers in financial services. M&I Corporation was recognized for being an integral business partner for students in the Financial Services Youth Apprenticeship program. Additionally, Markstrum has presented student workshops about various financial services responsibilities and has trained all Financial Services apprentices.

MCL Industries was honored for its partnership with the Pulaski Community School District's Project Lead the Way courses. The family-owned business provides tours, participates with the Youth Apprenticeship program, and gives on-going support for the school's Technology and Engineering Education programs. **Carl Treankler** accepted the award on behalf of the company.

Menominee Tribal Clinic in Keshena was recognized for partnering with the Menominee Indian School District. Led by administrator **Jerry Waukau**, clinic staff members volunteer time, provide educational presentations on health issues, teach high school students employability skills, and work to strengthen career and technical education programs.

Portage Area Chamber of Commerce and director **Marianne Hanson** were honored for partnering with Cooperative Educational Service Agency 5 to develop a guide for leadership skill development. The chamber's five-day training program for high school juniors, called the Be Significant Youth Leadership Project, includes information on entrepreneurship, small business ownership, manufacturing, skilled trades, and the non-profit sector.

Rockwell Automation, headquartered in Milwaukee, was honored for its commitment to nurturing a homegrown crop of skilled technicians, scientists, and engineers. The company helped build and equip the city's new Lynde and Harry Bradley School of Technology and Trades. Additionally, the company helped establish a Project Lead the Way Gateway to Technology program at three schools and linked its in-house Society of Women Engineers with female middle school students to explore engineering and technical careers. **Mary Lou Young** accepted the award on behalf of Rockwell Automation.

Staab Construction of Marshfield actively supports education by modeling volunteerism and encouraging employees to work with Marshfield High School students, serve on advisory councils, and guest speak on topics related to engineering and construction. **Aaron Staab** was recognized for his role in construction of the Architecture, Construction and Engineering Academy at the school and his service as chairperson of the Academy Advisory Committee.

Tailored Label Products Inc., under the direction of president **Mike Erwin**, provides the classroom for the Menomonee Falls Second Chance program. Additionally, the

company was recognized for its support for the Supervised Occupational Experience Program. The company provides a work site for students and ensures that all students have a manufacturing day experience.

Trempealeau County Health Care Center in Whitehall was honored for its support for the Health Youth Apprenticeship program. It provides training opportunities for students in the Certified Nursing Assistant program; holds training spots in each CNA session for high school students; hosts tours; and assists in coordination and implementation of the Health Care Orientation program. **Mary Gullicksrud** of the center, works with students to help them prepare for their state Certified Nursing Assistant written and practical exam.

"I want to thank these Business Friends of Education for their support of career and technical education programs in Wisconsin and for the innovative partnerships formed across the state," Burmaster said.

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NOTES: This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2009_25.pdf. A photo gallery from the awards program will be available on the Department of Public Instruction website at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sprntdnt/photos.html>.